

Amendments to the Claims:

1 - 27 (cancelled)

28. (new) Apparatus for collecting solids settling at the bottom of a liquid reservoir, said apparatus comprising a hollow suction head, said suction head comprising a hollow body having an upper side and a lower side, said lower side defining a mouth, at least one outlet duct extending from said hollow suction head, and means for introducing air into said suction head to create a suction pressure in said suction head to cause in use liquid and solids adjacent said mouth to pass along said at least one outlet duct for collection.

29. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 28 wherein said suction head is of domed shape and includes on said upper side one or more outlets for connection to said outlet duct or ducts.

30. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 28 wherein said means for introducing air into the suction head comprises an air diffuser located within the said suction head.

31. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 30 wherein said air diffuser comprises an elongated pipe having a plurality of air outlets therein.

32. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 28 wherein said suction head includes means to displace solids from the bottom of the liquid reservoir.

33. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 28 and including skids at opposite ends of said suction head for supporting said suction head.

34. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 28 and including a collector communicating with said at least one outlet duct for collecting materials from said suction head, said collector comprising a housing defining a collection chamber and buoyant support means for providing buoyant support to said housing

35. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 34 wherein said housing includes at least one entry port through which liquid and solids entrained in said liquid can flow from said suction head into the chamber via said at least one outlet duct for collection.

36. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 35 wherein said chamber is substantially circular in cross section and including guide means in said chamber adjacent said entry port for directing liquids and entrained solids from said outlet in a generally tangential direction into said chamber.

37. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 35 wherein said entry port is open to collect solids floating in or on the surface of the liquid.

38. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 37 and including at least one external guide member on said housing defining a throat to assist in direction liquid and solids floating in or on the surface of liquid into the chamber.

39. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 36 and including one or more outlet ports or openings spaced from said entry port for passage of liquid out of the chamber.

40. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claims 34 wherein collector housing has an upper periphery and wherein said buoyant support means comprise a buoyancy member located around at least portion of said upper periphery.

41. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 40 wherein said buoyancy member comprises a hollow chamber for containing air or one or more buoyant bodies.

42. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 34 and including link means interconnecting said suction head and said collector, said link means permitting the height of said collector to be adjusted relative to said suction head.

43. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 42 wherein suction head includes skids at opposite ends thereof and defining a suction head assembly, said link means comprise a pair of link arms extending substantially parallel to each other and pivotally connected at opposite ends to said suction head assembly and said collector respectively.

44. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 42 and including a winch and a cable coupled to said apparatus for moving the apparatus in the liquid reservoir, and means for reversing said winch whereby said apparatus can traverse in opposite directions in the liquid reservoir.

45. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 44 wherein and wherein said reversing means includes stop means associated with said cable, said stop means being cooperable with one or more limit switches for causing automatic reversing of said winch.

46. (new) A method of cleaning a liquid reservoir, said method including the steps of providing apparatus comprising a hollow suction head adapted to collect solids settling at the bottom of a liquid reservoir, said suction head having an upper side and a lower side, said lower side defining a mouth, at least one outlet duct extending from said hollow suction head, and a collector for receiving and collecting materials from said suction head via said at least one outlet duct, and means for buoyantly supporting said collector at or adjacent the surface level of liquid in said reservoir,

introducing air into said suction head to create a suction pressure in said suction head to cause settling solids adjacent said mouth to pass along said at least one outlet duct to said collector, and

moving said apparatus in said reservoir for collecting solids settling on the bottom of said reservoir in the path of movement of said apparatus.

47. (new) A method of cleaning a liquid reservoir as claimed in claim 46 wherein said collector includes means for collecting materials at or adjacent the surface of liquid in said reservoir whereby settling solids and solids floating in or adjacent the surface of liquid in the reservoir may be collected simultaneously when said apparatus is moved in said reservoir.